Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method of diagnosing an impaired glucose tolerance condition, obesity, or a propensity thereto in a patient, said method comprising analyzing the level of PTEN expression or activity in a sample isolated from said patient, whereby an increase in said level of PTEN expression or activity relative to a control sample is an indication of an impaired glucose tolerance condition, obesity, or a propensity thereto.

2. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing the normal longevity [in] of a patient, said method comprising analyzing the level of PTEN expression or activity in a sample isolated from said patient, whereby a decrease in said level of PTEN expression or activity relative to a control sample is an indication of decreased longevity.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said level of PTEN expression or activity is analyzed by measuring PTEN lipid phosphatase activity.

4. (Withdrawn) A method of ameliorating or delaying the onset of an impaired glucose tolerance condition in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound that decreases PTEN expression or activity.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of increasing longevity in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically-effective amount of PTEN polypeptide or a compound that increases PTEN expression or activity.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 or 5, wherein said PTEN is human PTEN.